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DIGITAL EDITION
SPAWN
RORY McCONVILLE
CARLO BARBERI

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SPAWN®

WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 23

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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

While Sinn's invasion of Omega Island starts to crumble, Al is betrayed by one of the few people he ever considered a friend.

image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
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THEN.*
*This takes place prior to Spawn #333--Thomas
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
BRINGING YOU A WARNING. THERE'S A PLOT AGAINST YOU.
AND WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THAT?
A TEAM, LED BY JIM DOWNING, IS BEING BUILT TO MOVE AGAINST YOU. HE WANTS THE DEAD ZONES.
HE'S RECRUITING MORE BUT SO FAR, HIS ONLY MEMBER IS MARC ROSEN...
...WHOSE BODY I HAVE BEEN USING AS A 'HOST'... I'M ABLE TO ACCESS HIS MEMORIES.
FIND OUT WHO ELSE DOWNING IS RECRUITING.

YOU'RE KIDDING... RIGHT?
REMEMBER HOW YOU TOLD ME TO GET LOST WHEN I FIRST CAME TO YOU FOR HELP?
YOU ASKED TO BE USEFUL. WELL, HERE'S THAT CHANCE.
IF DOWNING APPROACHES YOU, FOR WHATEVER REASON, I WANT YOU TO ACCEPT HIS OFFER.
DOWNING MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO HELP US FIND A CURE FOR THE POISON IN DANIEL'S SUIT.
HE'S NOT GOING TO DO THAT-- YOU WOULD'VE JOINED HIM BY NOW IF THAT WERE TRUE.
WHY NOT JUST CALL ON THE SCORCHED?
SOMEONE ELSE BEHIND DOWNING, RUNNING THINGS.
I NEED TO DRAW THEM OUT IN THE OPEN BY LETTING MYSELF GET CAUGHT.
YOU'LL BE MY BACK-UP WHEN THAT HAPPENS. AND ONE OTHER THING...
MARC ROSEN'S ALREADY JOINED HIM.

Now.
SPAWN HAD ALWAYS KNOWN HIS PLAN WAS GOING TO BE RISKY.
IN PREPARATION, THOUGH, HE TRIED FACTORING IN EVERY POTENTIAL COMPLICATION HE COULD THINK OF.
THE REAPPEARANCE OF NYX HAD NOT BEEN ONE OF THEM.
HER RETURN BLINDSIDED HIM. AND NOW...

...HE RISKS LOSING **EVERYTHING!**

AFTER VENTURING DEEP INTO SPAWN'S MIND, NYX UNCOVERED THE SECRET LOCATIONS WHERE SPAWN HID THE POWER TO CONTROL ALL FOURTEEN **'DEAD ZONES'** SCATTERED AROUND THE WORLD.

TWO MINUTES AGO, NYX HAD TELEPORTED AWAY, SAYING SHE WAS GOING TO START UNLOCKING EACH OF THOSE LOCATIONS.

AND MERE **SECONDS FROM NOW,** CONTROL OF THOSE **ZONES** WILL BE DETERMINED, AS SPAWN'S GROUP BATTLES DOWNING'S NEW RECRUITS!

EVERY MOMENT DOWNING CAN DELAY SPAWN IN PURSUING NYX INCHES HIM CLOSER TO ATTAIN HIS ULTIMATE GOAL.
LEAVE HERE, SPAWN!
HAUNT AND I WILL DEAL WITH THINGS HERE!
YOU NEED TO STOP NYX!

THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, SINN'S PLANS LIE IN TATTERS.
BLUDD'S VAMPIRES HAD MADE UP THE BULK OF HIS FORCES.
NOW WITHOUT THEM, THE BATTLE HAS TURNED INTO A MASSACRE.
ANYONE WHO COULD HAVE FLED HAS DONE SO.
THOSE REMAINING KNOW CLOWN WON'T TAKE PRISONERS, AND, THOUGH THEIR EFFORTS ARE ULTIMATELY DOOMED...
...THEY FIGHT WITH A DETERMINATION TO KILL AS MANY FOES AS THEY CAN.
REPORTS COMING IN FROM ACROSS THE ISLAND. WE'VE RETAKEN THE EASTERN AND--
WHAT'S THE LATEST ON SINN, AND THE FORSAKEN?
THE CAMERAS HAVE BEEN INCINERATED.

"WE CAN'T LOCATE THEM."
READY TO SURRENDER?
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TAKE THE THRONE WITHOUT ME?
I DID WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE DONE, LITTLE BROTHER.
I WOULDN'T HAVE BETRAYED YOU.
GOD FAVORED YOUR OFFERINGS OVER MINE. I WAS JEALOUS, BUT... I NEVER MEANT TO *KILL* YOU. I'VE CARRIED THAT GUILT FOR A MILLENNIA.
WHAT?!
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND, BUT BEFORE YOU KILL ME, I...
WANT YOUR *FORGIVENESS*.
YOU DARE?!
FORGIVENESS?!? NOT AFTER...
UCKK

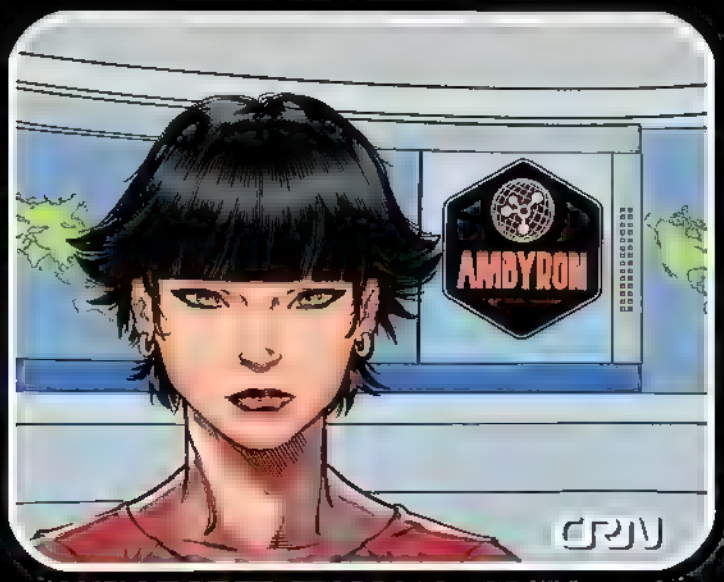
SHANK
YOU DARE TOUCH ME, DEMON?
WOMP
SINN KNOWS THERE'S BUT A BRIEF WINDOW IN WHICH TO STRIKE
GATHERING ALL THE REMAINING POWER HE'S STOLEN FROM SPAWN AND OTHER HELLSPAWNS THE LAST FEW MONTHS...
HE UNLEASHES

AS HE DRAGS HIS WEARY BODY FROM THE GROUND AFTER KNOCKING ABEL A MILE ACROSS THE ISLAND SINN DOUBTS HE'S SEEN THE LAST OF HIS BROTHER
SINN!
YOU ALRIGHT?
I'M FINE, CAD.CLUS.
HOW'S THE BATTLE PRO-GRESSING?
BLUDD ABANDONED US WITHOUT HIS ARMY I DOUBT WE'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER
HE'LL PAY FOR THIS BETRAYAL. LET'S FOCUS ON REACHING THE FISSURE.
IS NOT FAR FROM HERE. MOST OF CLOWN'S FORCES ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR FIGHTING
THAT WILL ALLOW US TO GET THERE FIRST.

IN THE PAST MINUTES, SPAWN HAS VISITED THIRTEEN OF HIS SECRET LOCATIONS, EACH STOP LASTING MERE SECONDS, AS HE GOES ABOUT RECLAIMING THE FRAGMENTS OF POWER HE'D HIDDEN AT EACH SPACE.
THE FIRST FIVE LOCATIONS WERE UNTOUCHED, LEADING HIM TO WONDER IF HE HAD POTENTIALLY OVERESTIMATED NYX.
THEN HE FOUND ONE THAT HAD BEEN COMPROMISED.
THEN ANOTHER.
AND ANOTHER.
NOW, AS HE ARRIVES AT THIS FINAL LOCATION, ALMOST HALF THE DEAD ZONES ARE NO LONGER UNDER HIS CONTROL.

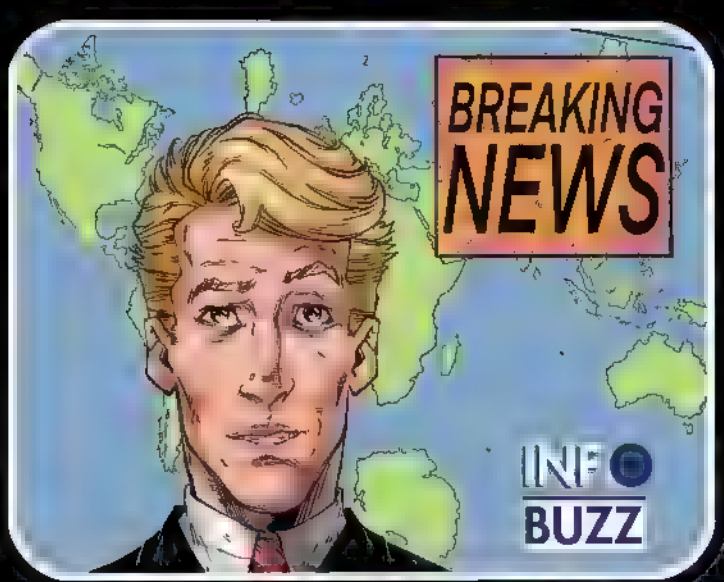
THIS NEEDS TO STOP, NYX!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE DEAD ZONES EVEN IF YOU COULD FIND A WAY TO UNLOCK THEM. ONLY I CAN DO THAT.
NOT ANYMORE, AL.
IT'S TOO MUCH POWER FOR ONE PERSON. YOU JUST WON'T ACCEPT THAT.
BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT'S COMING.
THEY'LL ALL TRY AND ENTER, EVERYONE TRAPPED HERE AND ON THE OTHER SIDE. THEY ALL TALK ABOUT THE "BLACK BEAST."*
YOU TRY THIS, YOU'LL DIE ALL OVER AGAIN. TAKE THAT AS A WARNING!
*See Batman/Spawn crossover — Thomas

YET, WHAT ANGERS SPAWN THE MOST IS THAT, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, HE STILL ALLOWS HIMSELF TO FEEL BETRAYED. NYX WAS DIFFERENT. AT LEAST SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.
AS SHE WAS ONE OF THE FEW THAT HAD ACTUALLY BELIEVED IN HIM.
GOODBYE, AL.
BUT SHE'S CHANGED SINCE HER RESURRECTION. SPAWN WONDERS IF IT'S REALLY HER ACTIONS OR SOMEONE WHO'S INFLUENCING NYX.
HER EYES THOUGH TELL HIM THAT NYX IS IN FULL CONTROL OF HERSELF.
BUT IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND, HE KNOWS THEY'RE BOTH NAVIGATING A LIFE THAT CAN TAKE ITS TOLL ON ALL OF THEM.



WE CONTINUE TO TRACK THE UNFOLDING EVENTS AT AMBYRON, WHERE CEO CONOR BRISK IS REPORTEDLY FACING A BOARDROOM COUP. IT COULD SEE HIM OUSTED FROM HIS COMPANY, WHERE HE'S MAINTAINED AN IRON GRIP FOR OVER 40 YEARS. IF SUCCESSFUL, THIS WOULD REPRESENT ONE OF THE LARGEST CORPORATE DISPLACEMENTS IN RECENT MEMORY. BRISK HAS REPORTEDLY ADOPTED A BUNKER MENTALITY, SEQUESTERING HIMSELF IN HIS OFFICE WHILE TRYING TO FIND THE SUPPORT NECESSARY TO STAY IN POWER. THIS SHOWDOWN IS THE CULMINATION OF MONTHS OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY RIVAL EXECUTIVES, WHO HAVE LOST FAITH IN BRISK'S LEADERSHIP.

RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING THAT BRISK'S PROPOSED REPLACEMENT WOULD BE MARTIN LAROCH. EARLY SIGNS SUGGESTED A SMOOTH SUCCESSION PROCESS. BEFORE BRISK'S PREVIOUS PLANNED DEPARTURE, HOWEVER, HE UNEXPECTEDLY CHOSE TO STAY ON AS CEO. MANY POINT TO THIS AS THE MOMENT THINGS STARTED TO GO AWRY FOR BRISK, AND...



WHILE ***UNEXPECTED,*** MANY ARE SUGGESTING THERE WAS AN AIR OF ***INEVITABILITY*** ABOUT THIS MOVE, DUE TO AMBYRON'S WELL-PUBLICIZED ONGOING ***DIFFICULTIES.*** UNDER COMPANY FOUNDER AND CEO ***CONOR BRISK,*** THE COMPANY ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A CORPORATE ***JUGGERNAUT*** IN THE 90's. BUT, BEGINNING AROUND 2010, BURDENED WITH A NUMBER OF QUESTIONABLE ACQUISITIONS, MOST NOTABLY 2012's $2.3BN TAKEOVER OF RIVAL ***ZENO,*** IT HAS ***STRUGGLED*** ON WALL STREET. THE ULTRA-LOW INTEREST RATES OF THE PAST DECADE ENABLED THEM TO ***AVOID*** THEIR GROWING PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WITH RATES NOW ***RISING,*** THOSE ISSUES HAVE COME FRONT AND CENTER.

SEVERAL SOURCES CLOSE TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM HAVE TOLD US THAT, WHILE BRISK HAS UNQUESTIONABLY BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME ***INCREDIBLE*** ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE YEARS, HE HAS ALSO FOSTERED AN INCREASINGLY ***TOXIC*** WORK CULTURE AT AMBYRON. WHILE THIS WAS TOLERATED DURING THE COMPANY'S ***PROSPEROUS*** YEARS, MANY NOW FEEL A ***CHANGE*** IS NEEDED.

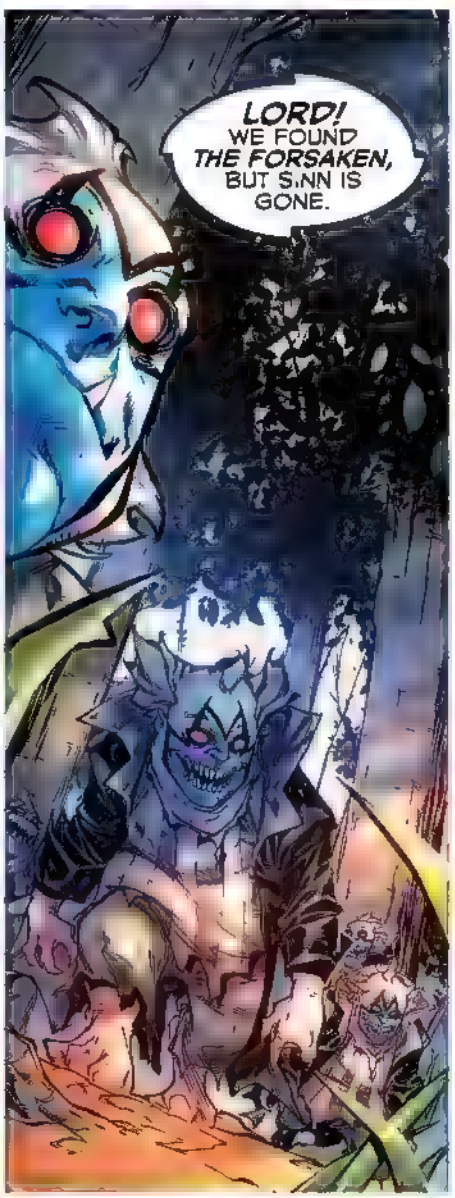
LET ME ***TELL*** YOU, FOLKS, THIS CRAP ***BOILS MY BLOOD!!***

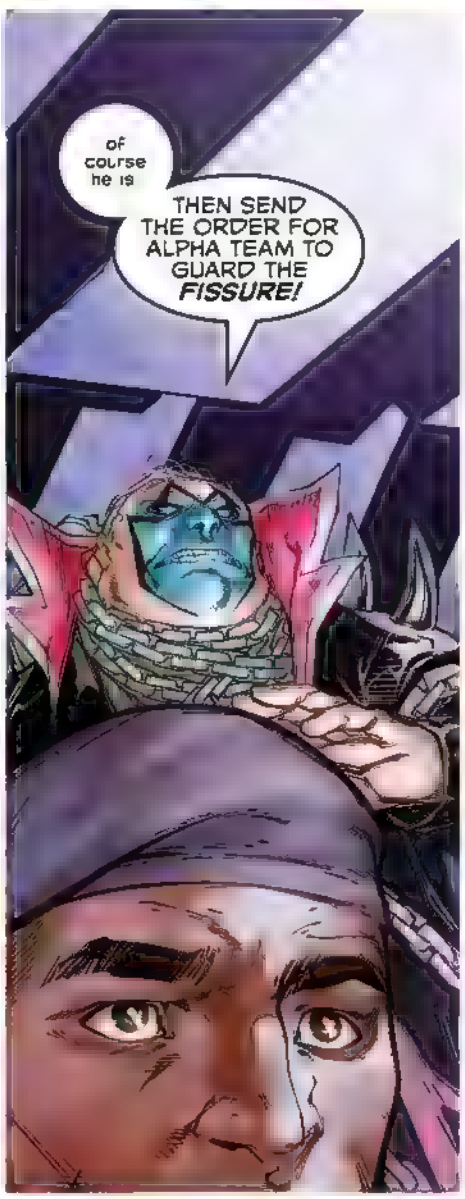
IT'S NOTHING SHORT OF A ***WITCH HUNT*** AGAINST ONE OF THE FINEST CAPITALISTS THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER SEEN. IF CONOR BRISK ***SURVIVES*** THIS COUP, AND I PRAY TO ***GOD*** HE DOES, I HOPE HE FIRES EVERY-SINGLE- ONE OF THOSE ***TREACHEROUS SNAKES!*** THE LIBERALS HATE THE IDEA THAT CONOR BRISK ***IS*** AMBYRON. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE BOLD THINKERS--***THE TITANS OF INDUSTRY***--WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING COMPANIES GREAT. LET ME REPEAT: ***BRISK IS AMBYRON.*** AND IF THOSE JACKALS OUST HIM TONIGHT, THEY'RE MAKING THE BIGGEST ***GODDAMN*** MISTAKE IN THE HISTORY OF CORPORATE AMERICA.

I'M ALL FOR DEMOCRACY, AS MUCH AS ***ANY*** AMERICAN. BUT, IF YOU'RE ***LUCKY*** ENOUGH TO GET A LEADER LIKE BRISK, YOU CLING TO HIM FOR ***DEAR LIFE.*** YES HE RUFFLES FEATHERS AND UPSETS THE SNOWFLAKES. ***WHO CARES?!***

IF YOU CAN MAKE ***PROFITS*** FOR ME, I DON'T ***GIVE*** A SHIT IF YOU CALL SOME INTERN A--

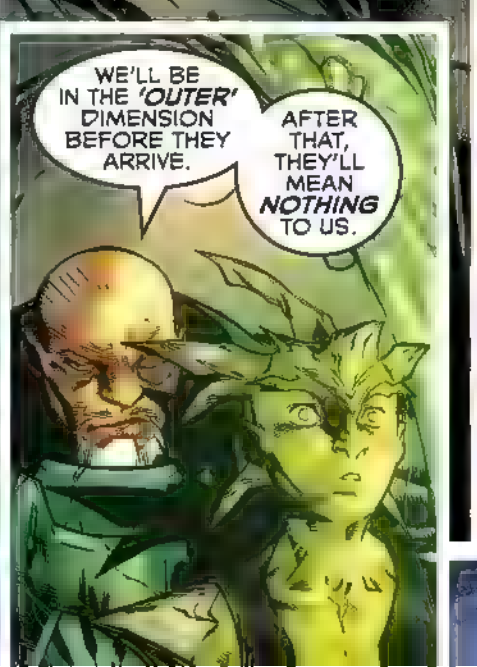
AS DAWN BREAKS, OMEGA ISLAND REMAINS UNCONQUERED


LORD! WE FOUND THE FORSAKEN, BUT SINN IS GONE.


of course he is
THEN SEND THE ORDER FOR ALPHA TEAM TO GUARD THE FISSURE!

"GET THAT TEAM DOWN THERE, NOW!"

I HEAR CLOWN'S MEN COMING, WE NEED TO ACT QUICK!


WE'LL BE IN THE 'OUTER' DIMENSION BEFORE THEY ARRIVE.
AFTER THAT, THEY'LL MEAN NOTHING TO US.

WE'RE HERE
YOU'VE PROVEN YOUR LOYALTY TODAY, CADICLUS...
...AND ONCE I SIT ON THE THRONE OF HELL, I WILL ENSURE IT IS WELL REWARDED.
...LOWN'S FORCES ARRIVE IN THE CHAMBER MOMENTS LATER TO FIND THE FISSURE SEALED SHUT.

SINN AND CADIOLUS HAVE LEFT THE WORLD OF MEN FAR BEHIND BY THAT POINT
IT'S MAGNIFICENT
EVEN AFTER MANY DECADES AWAY, SINN STILL RECOGNIZES IT IMMEDIATELY
THE BARREN EDGES OF THE NINTH REALM
THE FURTHEST POINT ONE COULD BE FROM THE THRONE WHILE STILL STANDING WITHIN IT
THE END OF THE FIRST LEG OF SINN'S JOURNEY
LET'S GET MOVING.
THERE'S STILL A LONG WAY TO GO.

NOT MUCH ELSE TO SAY. DOWNING AND THE OTHERS JUST BOLTED ONCE YOU WERE GONE.
GOT NO IDEA WHERE THEY WENT THOUGH.
THEY MUST'VE RECEIVED A SIGNAL FROM NYX.
WHAT ABOUT OUR DEAL? I'VE HELD UP MY END
I'LL BE IN TOUCH. GIVE ME A DAY, MAYBE TWO, THEN WE CAN RECONNECT.
WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH THIS BASE?
NOT SURE. DEPENDS WHETHER THERE'S ANYTHING WORTH SALVAGING.
IT MAY BE WORTH SPEAKING TO MARC. HE MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLACE THAT I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO.
SHOULD I MANIFEST HIM?
NO. I DON'T NEED MARC... EVER AGAIN.

YOU'RE ANGRY.
VERY OBSERVANT.
YOU'RE BEING HARD ON YOURSELF, NYX. *WHY?* YOU TOOK CONTROL OF HALF THE DEAD ZONES. THAT'S HUGE.
I COULD'VE HAD ALL OF THEM, AND SHOULD'VE REALIZED AL WOULD HIDE THE POWER IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.
THERE'LL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO GET THE REST.
WE'VE LOST OUR ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
MAYBE, BUT THE FACT IS IT'S STILL SEVEN LESS DEAD ZONES TO WORRY ABOUT.
AND THEIR POWERS WILL BE MORE SECURE HERE. IF ANYONE WANTS TO TRY AND TAKE THEM...

...THEY'LL HAVE TO FIGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH THE 'GREENWORLD' FIRST.

1:3:7:9

SPAWNING GROUND PRESENTS:

MAILBAG

Dear Mr. McFarlane, I thought I would have a go at a Spawn sketch cover. Love Spawn!

-SCOTT MASTERSON

Scott, this cover is awesome! I really dig the creepiness of it. Thanks for sending it in, and keep on making art!

-THOMAS

Have you guys ever considered crossing the spawn universe over with the Top Cow Universe???

-SOLOMON A

Yes! We'd love to do a cool crossover! Maybe if enough fans write in and tell us what they want to see, we could make it happen.

-THOMAS

In the last issue of Spawn, we featured a fan letter from Bobby Blakely, which was accompanied by some awesome artwork. Unfortunately, we printed the wrong fan art with the letter. We want to make it right by printing the correct art pieces below.

Bobby, sorry for the mix-up in the last issue! We are very happy to feature your Sketch Covers in this one! That Violator is sick!

-THOMAS

Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at:
spawninggground@mcfarlane.com

NEED MORE SPAWN'S UNIVERSE?

DON'T MISS THESE ONGOING TITLES:

SPAWN

KING SPAWN

SCORCHED

GUNSLINGER SPAWN

FEATURING COVER ARTIST DAVID MACK IN JANUARY 2023!

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